

## **SPI IV GRADUATION ADDRESS**

Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**ENTITLED:                                    “HEAR YE, HEAR YE  
ALL THAT IS GOOD AND POSITIVE IN THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA”**

NO, I STAND NOT IN FRONT OF YOU TODAY TO PRESENT  
IN DETAIL A REPORT ON OUR CITY’S FAILING SCHOOLS  
OR ELEVATED CRIME LEVELS.

NOT TO PREACH OR PROTEST THE LACK OF  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING OR ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE &  
HEALTH CARE COVERAGE.

OR EVEN TO DISCUSS HOW OUR CITY POLITICO’S  
ASPIRE TO FIX ALL THE ILLS AND PROBLEMS OF OUR  
CITY, WHICH THEY ARE NOW CLAIMING WILL REQUIRE  
AT LEAST TWO DECADES TO TACKLE

BUT I STAND HERE TODAY TO PROFESS AND PRESENT  
ALL THAT IS GOOD IN OUR CITY...YOU KNOW MANY OF  
US IN THE ROOM WORK WITH DISTRICT YOUTH, WHO  
WOULD PROBABLY CALL THIS SPEECH  
“WHATS GOOD, DC” OR “ITS ALL GOOD” IN DC.

---

---

BUT IF I MAY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR JUST A  
MOMENT MORE, ID LIKE TO RECITE TO YOU A TALE OF  
ONE FINE CITY AND ALL THOSE WHOSE *LABOR* TO  
MAKE IT EVEN *GREATER*. NOT ONLY DO I GUARNTEE  
YOU WILL BE ENTERTAINED BY THE *STORY*, BUT I CAN  
ENSURE YOU WILL LEAVE HERE MORE ENLIGHTENED  
AND INSPIRED ABOUT OUR CITY, MOST *SURELY*.

SO THE TALE BEGINS AS SUCH, IN A TIME WHEN MANY  
ARE *FORGOTTEN*, UNEMPLOYED, HOMELESS AND  
SIMPLY DOWN *TROT*TEN, IN A CITY WHERE SOME ARE  
EXPERIENCING THE BEST OF *TIME*, WHILE OTHERS ARE  
JUST TRYING TO WITHSTAND THE TEST OF *TIME*.

THERE EXISTS A GROUP OF CONCERNED, COMMITTED  
AND COMPASSIONED FOLK, YOU, KNOW THE SIMPLE  
DOWN HOME GOOD HEARTED *TYPE*, WHOSE EACH DAY  
AND MOMENT IS SPENT ON CORRECTING FOR OTHERS  
THE CHALLENGES OF *LIFE*.

NAME AN AREA OR AN ISSUE, AN INJUSTICE OR A  
*PROBLEM*, AND I BET YOU THERE IS AN SPI  
PARTICIPANT LEADING EFFORTS TO SOLVE *THEM*.

YES IN THIS FINE CITY, WHERE THE GOOD IS OFTEN  
*OVERLOOKED*, AND THE MEDIA PAYS MORE OVER  
ATTENTION TO POLITICS AND *CROOKS*,

IS A WELL-KEPT SECRET OF PUBLIC POLICY AT IT *BEST*,  
OFFERING INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE TO SELECT  
NON-PROFITS WHOSE PRIMARY COMMITTEMENT IS TO  
PROVIDE VARIOUS SERVES TO THE *REST*

YES THAT RIGHT AUDIENCE YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT  
TO BE *TRUE*, THANKS TO ERIC, LISA, AND PAT THERE IS  
A DISTRICT GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY DOING EXACTLY  
WHAT IT IS LEGISTAIVELY COMMISSIONED TO *DO*.

KNOW HOW COME WE DON'T HEAR THE NEWS  
STATIONS BROADCAST THIS INFORMATION FAR &  
*WIDE*, INSTEAD WE HEAR ABOUT DISTRICT  
GOVERNMENT MISHAPS, MISTAKES AND OF HOW  
INEFFEICIENCIES *PRESIDE*.

WELL NEVERTHELESS, IM HERE TO PROCLAM, THAT  
THIS FINE CITY DESPITE ITS WAYS, IS HOME TO  
COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS WHOSE LABOR OF LOVE  
GROWS SWEETER EVERY *DAY*.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THOSE IN THE FIELD AND  
THOSE ON THE *GROUND*, TAKE FOR INSTANCE THOSE  
ORGANIZATIONS COMBATING THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE  
THAT'S CURRENTLY PLAGUING OUR *TOWN*.

GROUPS THAT TAKE A STAND FOR SAFETY, JUSTICE  
AND PEACE, ORANIZATIONS THAT ARE **REACHING OUT  
TO OTHERS TOGETHER** MERELY OUT OF THEIR  
CONVICTIONS AND *BELIEFS*.

NOPE, FOR ONCE WE ARENT TALKING ABOUT GANGS  
THAT GLORIFY YOUNG THUGS OR ENCOURAGE  
DISTRESPECTFUL *TEENS*, BUT RATHER ENTITIES WHO  
ARE **UNITING NATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING  
AGAINST IMPOSSIBILITIES** THAT PREVENT US FROM  
ACCOMPLISHING OUR *DREAMS*

YES IN THIS FINE CITY, THERES MORE THAN THE  
CAPITAL OR THE THRONG OF TOURIST WE  
CONTINUOUSLY *HOST*, THERE ARE YOUTH OREINTED  
NON- PROFITS EFFORTS GIVING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE  
BETTER SKILLS AND GREATER *HOPE*, TAKE FOR  
INSTANCE **YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER** OR OUR DEAR  
FRIENDS DOWN OFF OF GOOD HOPE ROAD OVER AT THE  
**GATEPOST**.

ITS SAD TO ALWAYS HAVE TO HEAR OF WHAT IS  
WRONG *NOWADAYS*, WHILE NEVER BEING TOLD ABOUT  
WHAT IS GOOD AND POSITIVE IN SO MANY WAYS,

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE INSTITUTES AIMED AT  
**AFRICAN MAN DEVELOPMENT** FOR ALL TYPES, SIZE  
AND AGES OR HOW MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS ARE  
GAINING CONFIDENCE AND SELF AWARENESS THROUGH  
PROGRAMS LIKE **INTERSTAGES**.

WELL YOU MAY KNOW THAT IN THIS HERE FINE CITY,  
ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALHTCARE AINT ALWAYS EASY  
OR *PRETTY*,

BUT DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE SOME REALLY GREAT  
ORGANIZATIONS WHO MAKE IMPROVING THIS  
SITUATION THEIR MOST IMPORTANT GOAL, PROVIDING  
SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE DESIGNED TO NURTURE  
THE INDIVIDUALS MIND, BODY AND SOUL,

SO,WHETHER YOU CALL ON **ASCENSIONS COMMUNITY**  
**SERVICES** , WHO DELIVERS QUALITY  
THEAUPEUTIC/PSYLOCIGAL CARE OR LET YOUNG  
PEOPLE KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR HEALTH BY  
SUPPORTING THE **DC ASSEMBLY ON SCHOOL BASED**  
**HEALTH CARE**.

ITS OFTEN SAID THAT TO PRACTICE HEALTH  
PREVENTION IS TO KNOW ONES *WORTH*, BUT FOR  
THOSE WHO MISS THIS MESSAGE AT LEAST HELP CAN  
BE FOUND THROUGH **THE U.S. HEALTH EDUCATION**  
**NETWORK**

YES IN THIS HERE FINE CITY THERE ARE SO MANY  
WILLING TO DO THEIR *PART*, OFFERING QUALITY  
SERVICES TO THOSE IN NEED, FROM THE BOTTOM OF  
THEIR *HEART*

BUT AS THE CAPITOL SEAT OF THE FREE WORLD  
SHOULD NOT WE EXPECT THE HIGHEST STANDARDS  
FOR *DC* , WHILE WE LACK CAPITOL SCHOOLS AND  
CAPITAL SECURITY , WE DO LAY CLAIM TO HAVING A  
REALLY GREAT **CAPITOL CITY SYMPHONY**

YES SIR, RIGHT HERE IN YOUR FINE CITY THERE IS  
SOME MUCH HELP AND HOPE *ABOUND*, NEED SOME  
ASSITANCE WITH IMPROVING YOUR CAREER THEN LET  
ME REFER YOU TO AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE  
**TRAINING GROUND**

WHILE YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT HOW THE CITY'S SUFFERS  
FROM CRIME AND RAMPANT POWER *MISUSE*, WHAT  
YOU WON'T HEAR HOWEVER IS THE DIFFERENCE BEING  
MADE BY **CONCERN CITIZENS ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG  
ABUSE**

YES, YES, YES, THERE IS A MUCH BETTER STORY TO  
TELL ABOUT THIS FINE CITY, *INDEED*, DID HEAR ABOUT  
HOW OUR CHILDREN ARE BEING EXPOSED TO THE  
GREAT OUTDOORS THROUGH PROGRAMS OFFERED BY  
**STEEED**

OR HOW ABOUT THE EFFORT TO USE TENNIS TO HELP  
EMPOWER YOUNG *GIRLS*, JUST CHECK OUT THE GROUP  
**SET POINT** AND YOU'LL SEE HOW THERE WORK IS  
IMPACTING OUR *WORLD*

IM TELLING YOU MY FRIEND, IN THIS HERE CITY THERE  
IS MUCH MORE GOOD THAN *BAD*, WHICH IS WHY WE  
NEED MORE NON-PROFITS LIKE **PRESPITIY MEDIA** TO  
PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON ALL THE GLOOM AND *SAD*

WHILE EACH DAY WE HERE OF HOW OUR LOCAL  
SOLIDERS CONTINUE TO PRESS ON IN *IRAQ*,  
THANKFULLY FOR THEM THEY CAN COUNT ON **THE**  
**VETERNS ENTERPRISE TRAINING & SERVICES GROUP**  
FOR ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY GET *BACK*.

IN THIS HERE FINE CITY IT NEED NOT ALWAYS BE THE  
WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT ALL OF THE  
CITY'S *WOES*, FOR EXAMPLE THERE ARE SOME REALLY  
GREAT FAITH BASED INSTUTIONS WHO ARE DOING SO  
MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY SAVING *SOULS*

THEY ARE FEDDING THE HUNGRY AND TEACHING OUR  
YOUNG TO BELIEVE AND *ACHIEVE*, A PERFECT  
EXAMPLE IS THE EVENING ACADEMY AT **ALLEN**  
**CHAPEL AME**

EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ALL  
WE HEAR IS 'OH HOW BADLY THE TIMES ARE A  
CHANGIN', BUT WHAT IS NOT PROCLAIMED ARE HOW  
COUNTLESS FAMILIES ARE BEING STREGTHENED BY  
OFFERING THEM **THE KEYS TO CANAAN**

WHILE WE KNOW HIV/AIDS IN DC HAS GROWN INTO AN  
EPIDEMIC SINCE IT FIRST CAME ON THE *SCENE*, TO  
THAT, I SAY THANK GOD THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE  
CAN NOW LEARN MORE ABOUT ABSTENENCE  
THROUGH AN ORGANIZATION CALLED **ULTRA TEEN**.

I CANT SAY ENOUGH OF HOW SO MANY IN THIS FINE  
CITY ARE REACHING OUT TO MAKE SURE OUR  
CHILDREN RECEIVE THE SERVICES THEIR *MEANT*, WE  
HAVE THE **PEACEOHOLICS, THE ICON CHESS**  
**FOUNDATION**, AND OUR VERY OWN **ASSOCIATION**

**FOR SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL AND EVANGELICAL  
DEVELOPMENT.**

YES, MY FRIENDS, IM TALKING ABOUT A REALLY  
GREAT WORLD CLASS *CITY*, WHERE THERE ARE GROUPS  
ON THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY ISSUE OR PROBLEM  
DESPITE ITS *SEVERITY*

WE HAVE WHOLE ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO  
ENSURING YOUNG PARENTS ARE GIVE A  
**MELD/EVENSTART START**, WE ARE ALSO HOME TO THE  
NATION'S ONLY **PRISON FOUNDATION** WHO SERVE  
THE INCARCERATED THROUGH THE USE OF *ART*

OH ITS SO SAD HOW THESE STORIES GO SO OFTEN  
*UNTOLD*, OF HOW SO MANY OF OUR CITIZENS, LIKE  
**WORLD MISSIONS** ARE IMPROVING THE LIVES AND  
OUTLOOK OF OTHERS, WHETHER YOUNG OR *OLD*

THINK ABOUT IT, WOULDN'T WATCHING THE NEWS BE  
A WHOLE LOT *BETTER*, IF THEIR WERE MORE REPORTS  
ON HOW HIV IMPACTED FAMILIES CAN NOW **RESIDE IN  
GROUP HOUSING TOGETHER**

OR HOW **X-CORE** IS PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND GETTING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO  
BUY *IN*, OR HOW THE FUNDS OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES ARE BEING PROTECTED BY THE GOOD  
FOLKS OVER AT **SHARED HORIZON**

YES, YES MY FRIENDS, I KNOW ITS HARD TO *BELIEVE*,  
BUT THAT THE ACCOUNT I JUST REPORT IS REALLY A  
DESCRIPTION OF THE FINE CITY OF *DC*.

SO THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR SOMEONE TALK OF ALL  
THAT WRONG IN DC, DO ME A *FAVOR* AND LET THEM  
KNOW THAT THE CITY IS ACTUALLY BETTER OF  
BECAUSE OF ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE SOLE GOAL IS TO  
SIMPLY **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

**Written by William Miles, Executive Director  
STEED Inc.**

**In tribute to SPI IV Program and Participants**